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THE NEW YORK

LATIN LEAFLET

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BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, APRIL 10, 1905

No 122

Fifteenth Meeting of the Latin Club

The fifteenth regular meeting of the New York Latin Club is called for Saturday May 13, at 12 M, in the Hotel St Denis, corner of Broadway and Eleventh Street, New York. Prof Tracy Peck of Yale, will address the Club. All persons who are interested, whether teachers of Latin or not, are cordially invited to be present. The plan is to serve luncheon at 12 M, promptly, so that there shall be no delay. The address will follow the luncheon, and adjournment will occur about 2 P M, *thus leaving the afternoon still unbroken, for those who attend.* Please send a postal card at once to the Sec'y, Mr A L Hodges, 309 W 101 st, N Y, if you intend to be present, so that we may notify Mr Taylor, the proprietor of the hotel, how many to expect. *Please attend to this at once.*

The subject of the address will be announced later.

The price of the luncheon will be 75 cents to members, \$1.00 to others.

Information as to the membership in The Latin Club can be had at this meeting, or by referring to Nos. 3 and 10 of THE LATIN LEAFLET, or by addressing the Secretary

H H BICE, *President*
A L HODGES, *Secretary*

Is a New Renaissance (in Classics) Possible?

In Three Parts—Part II

Please observe that this success in imitating and reproducing the Latin classics, this essentially exotic faculty in Petrarch raised him so high in his time that neither Goethe, Scott, Byron, nor Darwin, in the last century, singly, enjoyed so uniform, so all pervasive and all permeating a renown as Petrarch did: when even his urging upon the Papal court to migrate back from Avignon to the eternal city of the Seven Hills was attentively and practically considered — when Cola di Rienzi was powerfully quickened in his absurd and impossible project to resuscitate the ancient Republic of Rome: it was the new spirit of the Renaissance at work. Neither history indeed nor culture in itself we believe can be reprimed

nated by enthusiasm of idealization no matter how genuine or profound. Of Greek indeed Petrarch learned but the faintest elements, and still when at last he possessed at least a copy of a Ms of Homer in the original Greek, sent to Petrarch by an admirer at the court of Constantinople, he (to use the words of Voigt) gazed upon the copy with ecstasis, he embraced it, though he merely knew how highly the Romans, men like Cicero, Horace, Pliny, had esteemed these poems. For two centuries, we may say roughly from the early manhood of Petrarch 1336 to the death of Erasmus 1536 — for two centuries the classicism of the Humanists dominated the entire intellectual movement in Europe in a manner and so thoroughly as no single creed, system, philosophy or science has since that time.

Greek indeed, which to Latin is as gold is to silver, and as the sun from which the moon of Roman civilization borrowed most of its light — Greek, I say, cannot be said, in and through the Renaissance movement to have attained the sovereign position which was its due. Some knowledge of Greek and some Greek MSS were derived from Constantinople. Filelfo, who long made Milan a center of classicism, had but few peers in that familiarity with Greek which had been absolutely commonplace with the Romans of Cicero's or of Pliny's time. The phonetic beauty of Hellenic speech presented itself, it is true, in the effeminate piping of Byzantine pronunciation: the long school tradition of conservatory practice, was utterly void of enthusiasm and singularly unfitted to breed any... In 1476 the Byzantine grammar of Lascaris was printed at Florence, and Byzantinism with its formularies of wooden and mechanical procedure dominated Greek instruction down to the time of our grandsires, when Buttmann began a better order of things. The great aim of the Renaissance enthusiasts in the century from 1400 to 1500 was to translate the Greek classics into Latin as if thus only they were sure to truly possess them. The leaders, many of whom were primarily manuscript collectors, fostered in every way this movement of latinizing the Greek classics.

Thus in the earlier part of the *quattro cento*,